

Message Text

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53

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 STR-04 OES-03 HEW-02 AGR-05

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /054 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MGJONES/NH

APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK

CPSC:GNICOLS (DRAFT)

EB/ORF/FTD:SFOUTS (DRAFT)

----- 064839

R 130104Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EPAP, SWEL, PK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ANTHRAX SPORES IN PAKISTANI YARN
PRODUCTS

REF: ISLAMABAD 1567

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON FEBRUARY 6 AND 9, THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ANNOUNCED VOLUNTARY RE-CALLS OF BALLS OF YARN CONTAINING ANIMAL HAIR (E.G., CAMELS AND GOATS BUT NOT SHEEP) THAT MAY BE CONTAMINATED WITH ANTHRAX SPORES. THE FEB. 6 ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNED IMPORTS BY TAHKI IMPORTS, INC., OF NEW JERSEY, OF ABOUT 5,000 POUNDS OF VARIOUS MIXED ANIMAL/SYNTHETIC YARNS FROM SAFRAZ BROS. OF LAHORE. THE FEB. 9 ANNOUNCEMENT COVERED 15,000 POUNDS OF SIMILAR YARN IMPORTED BY CREATIVE HANDWEAVERS INC., OF LOS ANGELES, FROM THE SAME SOURCE. THE LATTER ANNOUNCEMENT

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INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE COMMISSION LEARNED

OF THE CONTAMINATION BY THE DEATH OF A 31-YEAR OLD WEAVER
IN MORRO BAY, CALIF., IN LATE JANUARY." COPIES OF CPSC
PRESS RELEASES BEING POUCHED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LOU. U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HAS NOT "IM-
POUNDED" THESE PRODUCTS (PARA 2 REFTEL), THOUGH CPSC DID

CONTACT PHS'S CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN ATLANTA, WHICH
ALERTED STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO THE POSSIBLE HAZARD.
ONLY PRODUCT IN WHICH ANTHRAX SPORES HAVE BEEN DETECTED IS
BLENDED ANIMAL HAIR YARN NOTED IN PARA 1; THERE IS NO
INDICATION THAT WOOL CARPETS AND RUGS ARE INVOLVED. WILL
KEEP YOU INFORMED. END LOU. INGERSOLL

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